

The Maine Farmer: An Agricultural and Family Newspaper.

Maine Farmer

Augusta, June 23d, 1877.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

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Collectors' Notices.

C. S. AYER will call upon our subscribers to enter into the payment of the money due him.

J. P. CLARK will visit the subscribers of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward's Island, during the months of June and July.

The Stars and Stripes.

The one hundred anniversary of the adoption of the American Flag occurred on Friday last, and was appropriately noticed in several of the large cities. No national banner is more honored at the present time than the glorious stars and stripes, and the history of its inception and adoption is a subject of peculiar interest to the American people.

During the first two years of the war of the Revolution, the colonists had flags of various devices to suit the fancy of the different commanders, but none that could be called a national banner. In the first clash of arms at Lexington and Concord, there is nothing on record going to show that the colonists had any colors of any description, and we have only a vague report that one was displayed at Bunker Hill. One report says that the soldiers carried a red flag on which was inscribed the words "Come if you dare," but this, if the report is true, was only a motto devised by some irrepressible rebel as an expression of defiance.

During the first months of the Revolution no national emblem was adopted, because independence from the mother country was not seriously contemplated, and after the passage of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, for some unexplained reason the matter was still delayed. When the navy was first created, no flag was prescribed by law and naval commanders in devising their flags followed their own fancy.

The Province of the Massachusetts Bay adopted as an emblem, a green pine tree on a white ground with the motto "An Appeal to Heaven". On some was added a rattlesnake, and on others a rattle snake along with the words "Don't touch me."

South Carolina had the palmetto painted upon her flag, and there were various other banners of local significance. There was quite serious thought of adopting the rattlesnake as the national device from the fact that this species of snake is peculiar to America, and because the serpent is an emblem of wisdom and vigilance. Its appropriateness was argued also on the ground that it never yields, and because it never attacks unless distinctly, are firmly united, and are constantly increasing in numbers.

The first movement towards a common flag was late in the year 1775, when a committee consisting of Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Lynch and Benjamin Harrison met at the military camp in Cambridge, and after considerable deliberation and consultation with Washington, agreed upon the flag of the East India company. This bore the Union of the flag of Great Britain with the red cross of St. George in a white field, and the white cross of St. Andrew on an azure field, with thirteen stripes alternately red and white. This was called the "grand union flag," and was first displayed by General Washington at headquarters on the 21st of January, 1776.

The origin of the thirteen stripes is somewhat in question, but they represented the union of the colonies against the mother country of Great Britain.

The flag was not adopted by the Continental Congress, and after independence was declared the Union which signified allegiance to the British crown was no longer appropriate.

On the 14th day of June, 1777, the following resolution was passed by Congress:

"Resolved by Congress, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes alternating red and white, and that the Union be thirteen stars in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

The national colors though now adopted, did not at once come into general use, and is said to have been unfurled for the first time at the surrender of Gen. Burgoyne at Saratoga Oct. 17th, 1777.

Another account says it was first used at Fort Schuyler Aug. 21, 1777.

In 1794 Congress added two stars and two stripes to the flag, one for Kentucky and the other for Vermont. In 1818 a bill was passed reducing the number of stripes to thirteen, and providing that a star should be added for each new State, the star to be added on the fourth of July next succeeding the admission of the new State. The law is still in force, and the national colors are now embalmed with thirty-eight stars, the last one having been added for Colorado. Mrs. Ross of Philadelphia, is credited with having made the first flag, and it was said to have been to her suggestion that the stars were made five pointed, according to the French form, while the English style gave us the six pointed star on our colleague. In the unions of their collection, would do well to secure them now as he has left the United States and may never return.

Of course there is more or less trash in the collection, but taken as a whole it is a fine lot, and a large number of them are the works of our best landscape painters in their mature years. The sale will be continued Thursday afternoon and evening.

AUGUSTA VALUATION. The assessors find the gross amount of valuation of Augusta is \$422,120, divided as follows: Real estate \$25,751; personal estate, \$1,453,935. The last year the value of real estate was \$2,743,546; personal estate, \$1,472,714. It will be seen that a portion of the personal estate has been transferred to real estate, increasing the latter from last year to the amount of \$11,645. There has been a shrinkage, also, in the value of certain classes of personal estate. The gross amount to be raised this year is \$65,000. An assessment on the above valuation will have overlays to the amount of \$3,794.33. The per cent of valuation will be the same as last year, two and one-half cents on a dollar. Whole number of polls this year, 1773; last year, 1608; showing an increase of 105.

PERSONAL. Hon. J. G. Blaine arrived here from New York Tuesday evening.

Received a pleasant call Monday from Curtis Guild Esq. of the Boston Commercial Bulletin.

Governor Connor attends the commencement at Tufts College this week and will be at Orange next week.

H. L. M. Morrill went to Portland Tuesday and spent sometime in the Custom House. His health is steadily improving.

MR. JAMES M. TRACY. A superior pianist, and one of the most successful teachers of music in Boston, will open a Summer Music School at Augusta, Wednesday, Aug. 1st, continuing in session six weeks. Piano, Vocal, Organ and Chorus music will be taught. Four free concerts to pupils &c. Send for circulars. Address James M. Tracy, Boston Conservatory of Music, 154 Tremont St., Boston, Mass.

THE PENSION AGENTS. The Washington correspondent of the Boston Journal says the list of appointments for consolidated pension agencies throughout the United States are not yet completed. It is still believed to be the intention of the President and Secretary Schurz to ignore personal and political influence in these appointments, but to rely entirely upon those pension agents who in the districts consolidated have made best "civil service" records and have the highest personal character, or who, other things being equal, have the largest unexpired commissions.

ATTORNEY GENERAL DEWEY. has appointed a retired army officer to be his legal advisor, died at Fairhaven, Connecticut, on Sunday, at the age of 71 years. His death was not unexpected, he having been for sometime in feeble health. He was a native of Maine, and has been more distinguished in literature than as an accurate historian. His last work, the History of Maine, is full of inexcusable blunders.

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A CORRESPONDENT from Lincoln says that Dr. J. Ingraham Brown assisted Dr. Davies recently removed an internal tumor from Mrs. Summer Sweet of Lincoln, which weighed 13 1/2 pounds, and the patient is rapidly recovering. These are the main facts given in our correspondent's letter which we are obliged to condense for lack of space.

THE SOLON GRANGE. was organized some time over a year since, J. S. McEntire Master. It now numbers nearly 150 members. A store was started last month, M. Patterson Agent, which is doing a good business.

CITY NEWS AND Gossip. The State master is to be held toward the last of August and probably in August. — Mr. Muller, of Muller's on Franklin Street, had a pleasant time in his own garden last week.

These are the longest days of the season.

We get about eighteen hours of daylight per day. The days will be shorter soon.

Examination of the schools in the village district preparatory to the long summer vacation began Monday.—A kerosene lamp exploded at the house of Fred Parker on Grove street, Thursday, and created quite a stir; it was taken care of without much damage.—The steamer Henry Morrison is again on the Kennebec, with new boilers and thoroughly repaired, ready for the summer campaign of pleasure. The Gardiner Journal says that on making her trip from Boston, where she was repaired, the Morrison made the run from Boston to Squirrel Island in twelve hours, and from the Island to Gardner in three hours and ten minutes. That is rapid enough for any one.

—The city reports have been issued in book form, and may be had by any of our citizens for the asking. Persons will be supplied with copies by calling on City Marshal Farrington, Treasurer Lane, City Clerk Blanchard, or at the Journal office. The volume contains the Mayor's Address, reports of the several departments of the city government, the report of the Auditor, School Supervisor, and that of the directors of the village district.—The poem before the Society of Alumni, Hamlin College, N. Y., at the Commencement, June 27th, is to be given by Rev. J. H. Eob of this city. Mr. Eob graduated at that college.

Three of the young men who recently went west from this city, Fred Faught, George Morton and Frank Getchell, have secured good situations in Washington Territory.

The building occupied by Chadwick as a saloon, was moved its new place south of the FARMER building in one day.

Under the new arrangement for the transit, passengers can leave here, 1:30 P. M., and reach New York the next morning.

The finding quality of butter will bring only twenty-five cents per pound in Sunday.

The closing exercises at St. Catherine's Hall will take place on Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock.—We learn that the whole number of scholars in this city on the 1st day of April, 1877, was 222; on April 1st, 1876, the number was 212. These figures show a gain of 15 scholars the past year, a most satisfactory showing.

This year there are in the village district 1245 scholars; in the other districts 1037.

In 1876 the whole number of scholars registered by teachers as entering school was 1387.

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